

From: Casey Fleming
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 6:10pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Gentlemen:

Comments on the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement:

I have owned two small businesses. In both cases the software required to run the business was simply not built for the Apple or Unix-based platforms. Thus, due to the particular nature of our industry, we found the Microsoft platform the only reasonable alternative. It was expensive to buy, and expensive to maintain because of it's instability. I have bought Microsoft for years not because I think highly of the product, but because I never had any real choice.

The extra expense reduced our ability to add staffing when it would have been very helpful, and it cut deeply into profits which could have gone to further expand the business.

In a very real way, Microsoft's predatory monopoly practices cost jobs in our community and drained investment capital away re-investment that would have benefitted both our community and our industry. They suck resources (money and time) away from true productive labor, and harm small businesses in very tangible ways. Forget anecdotal evidence; I have no doubt that a disinterested study of small businesses would yield significant data suggesting that Microsoft's practices are costing hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in losses every year, particularly in the small business community.

The settlement with Microsoft must guarantee that they can never again target and destroy other businesses to stifle competition. A breakup of the company seems the only reasonable alternative to those of us in the small business community that have directly suffered from their actions.

Sincerely,

Casey Fleming

Former president, Independent Property Services, Inc.

Former CEO, Loanguide.com,. Inc.

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